

Message Text

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S/S:MR. BRIDGES

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, UR, US

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH SOVIET EMBASSY
ON SOVIET FISHERY VIOLATIONS

FOLLOWING FOR EMBASSY BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS A SUMMARY
OF THE MEETING BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY AND VASEV OF
SOVIET EMBASSY, MONDAY, APRIL 11.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT THE GRAVITY OF THE
SITUATION REGARDING SOVIET FISHERY VIOLATIONS HAD MADE
IT NECESSARY TO CALL MR. VASEV IN SO SOON AFTER THEIR
PREVIOUS MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. HE NOTED THAT THERE
HAD BEEN A SHARP INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS
AS WELL AS TWO SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO
JUSTIFY ACTION UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS. ON APRIL 9,
THE TARAS SHEVCHENKO HAD BEEN ORDERED TO PORT TO REMOVE
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THE CATCH. HE TOLD VASEV THAT HIS PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN
CALLING HIM IN WAS TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE
GENERAL PROBLEM OF SOVIET FISHING BOAT VIOLATIONS. HE
URGED THAT THE SOVIETS TAKE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO SEE
THAT THEIR BOATS COOPERATE, AND THAT THEIR OPERATIONS
ARE BROUGHT IN TO COMPLIANCE WITH OUR LAW. HE POINTED
TO THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF THE VIOLATIONS TO THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF CONGRESS. HE SAID

CONTINUED INCIDENTS COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT RELATIONS.

VASEV SAID HE WOULD PASS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S POINTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THEIR CAPTAINS UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION. VASEV SAID THAT, AS TO HIGH VISIBILITY, THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THE VISIBILITY ASPECT HAD BECOME AN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN, WHICH HE DEPLORED. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT FAR FROM THIS BEING AN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN, THE U.S. HAD EXERCISED GREAT PATIENCE IN THE MATTER, BUT THAT THE REPEATED VIOLATIONS (THEN UP TO 83) HAD INEVITABLY EVOKED A STRONG PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE.

VASEV SAID HE KNEW NO MORE OF THE FACTS ABOUT THE TWO INCIDENTS THEN WE DID. HE SAID THEY HAD SENT A MAN TO BOSTON. HE URGED THAT WE CONSIDER ALLOWING THEM TO UNLOAD THE CARGO OF THE SNECHKUS, AND TURNING OVER THE VESSEL'S LOG. HE EMPHASIZED THE DAILY COST TO THEM IF THE SNECHKUS, A FACTORY SHIP, WAS TO BE HELD. THE FACTS BEARING ON SEIZURE OF THE SNECHKUS CARGO WERE EXPLAINED TO VASEV.

IN CONCLUSION, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. HE ASKED THAT THEY CONSIDER TAKING THEIR TRAWLERS OUT OF THE ZONE, TO GIVE THEIR CAPTAINS TIME TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH OUR REGULATIONS. VASEV SAID HE COULD NOT REPLY TO THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGESTION. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ASSURED VASEV HE WISHED TO AVOID THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED VIOLATIONS.
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